

Arden Civic Committee Meeting – 13 September 2006

Present: Steven Blades, Dale Brumbaugh, David Gerbec, Sue Rothrock and Ann Schmittinger. Also present was Danny Schweers (secretary).

During the meeting, Dale forced us to eat some very fudgy brownies and Danny showed us a sample of autoclaved aerated concrete.

Sue called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Minutes of last meeting were approved.

TREE ON HARVEY ROAD AT MEADOW: Much of it is still standing after DeIDOT's work: a mess but we are grateful DeIDOT did anything at all. Damon will go into this area and clean it up.

TRASH COLLECTION: Harry Thernal of Ardentown represented the three Ardens and got four varied bids. The best was from Tri-State, but Waste Management had first right of refusal, and they agreed to match Tri-State's bid, \$15.54/home, once-a-week pickup, once-a-week recycling, a bid low enough not to adversely affect our budget. (Waste Management's initial bid was \$19+/household.) We don't pay extra now if gasoline prices rise. Green bins, however, are no longer free, but Waste Management will empty trash from any kind of container. Rolling recycling containers and bins are available from DSWA (Delaware Solid Waste Authority). The large recycling containers provided by DSWA can be kept clean inside by putting cans and plastic bottles in recyclable plastic bags. Sue will complain about the small size and flimsy strength of the yard waste bags that Waste Management provides.

BIG BIN NEAR CRAFT SHOP MUSEUM: Belongs to Waste Management for Craft Shop Museum tenants. In 2001 or so, when this was first put in place, it was emptied on a "will-call" basis, but soon was ignored, probably because no one called. It has been off the books for years and has been picked up on a random basis. Waste Management is looking into resolving this situation

Path and Right-of-Way Management: Damon will put wood chips on Pump House Path. Also, area at Millers and Marsh has been maintained, and other paths, as well as the Arden Green where Doggie Group hangs.

ARDEN FAIR: Parking on the Green was better managed this year. Ruts have been repaired and the bill sent off.

TREE NEAR RIDINGS: This is now in the hands of the new Forest Committee.

ADA PLANS FROM DeIDOT: DeIDOT called, saying they need to redo the handicap ramps along Harvey Road and Grubb Road where there are sidewalks. This does not affect the Ardens, which are without sidewalks.

SURVEY AT HARVEY ROAD AND STILE: Existing survey is useless. We are asking the Trustees to make a survey. Problem with trees have been going on for two years now. Leaseholder thinks his leasehold goes halfway down his driveway. There is a survey post at Elizabeth Bean's. There's another on Meadow Lane. Once survey is made, we can decide who's responsible for dead trees.

TREES DYING: \$12,000 has been spent already for commons, and \$1,500 towards mowing, against a budget of \$19,000, leaving about \$5,000 to treat additional dead and sick trees. Brandywine Tree Service is who we are looking to now to do work; they seem responsive and responsible.

SEA OATS AT THE BUZZ: These need to be trimmed. Also there is an 8-foot-tall poplar and other volunteer trees and bushes to be whacked.

POOL: Isaacs' pool maintenance personnel emptied pool into gutter leading to Naaman's Creek. NCCo recommends emptying pools into sewers. DNREC recommends emptying water onto lawn to help filter chemicals. Both cautioned against emptying water into a neighbor's yard. Chemicals should be deactivated before emptying, which happens if the water sits for a few days.

GREEN LANE TURQUOISE HOUSE PROBLEMS: Small land mover going back into woods according to reports. This brings up urgency of defining forest boundaries and setting a policy governing leasehold improvements next to forests.

TOWN ORGANIC GARDEN: Ann suggests community garden plots.

MEETING ADJOURNED: at 8:30 p.m. Next meeting will be Wednesday, October 4.

Respectfully submitted,
Danny N. Schweers, Secretary